



## Council News: April 2026

April is here, filled with excitement and opportunities! This month, we celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Month, honoring the incredible individuals who make our Girl Scout community shine. Dive into this newsletter to discover fantastic events, special recognitions, and ways to get involved. Let's make April unforgettable!



## Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month!

April marks Volunteer Appreciation Month! We are incredibly grateful for our amazing Girl Scout volunteers! Their dedication, passion, and hard work make a world of difference in the lives of all Girl Scouts. From organizing events to mentoring and guiding, they inspire and empower Girl Scouts to be their best selves.

This Volunteer Appreciation Month, utilize our [Volunteer Appreciation page](#) to find ways to celebrate someone special! Perhaps send them an e-card or make a DIY gift. April 22 is Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day, which honors all volunteers who have become leaders, mentors, and role models for Girl Scouts. Plus, if you have volunteered for the GSNorCal Program Team or are interested in getting involved, join us for a celebration of our volunteers at our [Alameda](#) or [San Jose](#) Program Volunteer Appreciation Parties in early May. We also have a limited time sale promo at all GSNorCal shops in April, read [more below in the newsletter](#).

Speaking of making a difference, check out our [2025 Impact Report](#) to celebrate the incredible achievements and milestones reached by our community throughout the year.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities for Girl Scouts and Volunteers:

- [Last Chance: Register for Golden Gate Bridging](#)
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## Last Chance: Register for Golden Gate Bridging Event



Register by April 10 | Event is April 25 | Grades 5-12 | San Francisco  
Celebrate with us as we walk across the Golden Gate Bridge as part of the huge Girl Scout milestone of bridging! Walk across one of the most famous bridges in the world, then party with activities and lunch. Financial aid is available as well. Register before the April 10 deadline on [our website](#).

NEW: Golden Gate Bridging Apparel  
Exclusive Golden Gate Bridging shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase now! Order by March 31 for direct shipping before event or order by April 17 to pick up merchandise at the event. To order apparel and learn more, visit [the Golden Gate Bridging website](#).

## Early Bird Renewal Is Here



Early Bird renewal has begun for the 2026-2027 Girl Scout membership year! Spread the word and [renew your membership now!](#) Every youth member who renews during Early Bird qualifies for a patch. This year, the reward\* structure is revamped: the sooner your troop renews, the more cookie proceeds you earn upon reaching an 80% membership retention rate.

The Early Bird rewards structure is as follows:

- Troops that reach 80% of youth membership renewed between April 1-30: Earn an additional \$0.10 per box sold during the 2027 cookie season.
- Troops that reach 80% of youth membership renewed between May 1-31: Earn an additional \$0.05 per box sold during the 2027 cookie season.

\*Rewards are not cumulative – troops earn only one reward level based on when they reach 80% of youth membership renewed during the Early Bird season.

## Summer Camp Open Houses



With camp registration available for all to register, we invite all to join us at various camp open houses to learn more! Check out our [camp website](#) to register for camp, learn more about camp open houses, view our [2026 Camp Guide](#) and more!

## Entrepreneurship Opportunities

Thank you everyone for your hardwork and dedication to a successful 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season! Cheers to all the skills that were learned and connections made with the community.

There's more to look forward to as we have various entrepreneurship focused programs available for Girl Scouts to participate in:

- [Cookie CEO: Pitch Program](#)  
April 29 - May 20 | Grades 6-12  
Learn how to write and deliver a business pitch to real corporate partners! Spark confidence, sharpen communication skills, and provide real-world business experience. As an exciting bonus, this program can be joined virtually or in-person at select locations in San Jose and Oakland.
- [Money Moves: Financial Literacy Workshops](#)  
May 2 | Grades K-12  
In two workshops, Girl Scouts of all levels can enhance their financial literacy from the experts. From learning about budgeting, saving, and smart spending, to types of financial institutions, interest rates and credit, and investing for the future. Each Girl Scout level will be able to earn a Financial Literacy badge at these informative, hands-on workshops! In addition to Girl Scouts learning financial literacy, registered caregivers can expect to learn more about Patelco's Free Financial Coaching for adults. Funding for this program is proudly sponsored by the Charles Schwab Financial Literacy Grant.

## Cookies to Castle Giveaway Winner



Drumroll, please... we are so excited to announce our Cookies to Castle Giveaway winner! After an incredible season of entrepreneurship, determination, and cookie boss energy, Natalie from Troop 10998 in Santa Rosa is headed to Disneyland! By reaching 150+ packages sold, they earned their entry into this special drawing—and now they're winning an all-inclusive family 4 pack trip to Disneyland, with a 3 night stay at the Candy Cane Inn! Way to go, Natalie! Also, huge shoutout to every Girl Scout who participated—your effort, growth, and leadership are what this program is all about. We couldn't be prouder.

## Volunteer Screening Reminder

Thank you to all members who've expressed interest in volunteering with a troop -- your support makes a meaningful difference for girls. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of every Girl Scout, we require all volunteers complete a mandatory fingerprint background check.\* This crucial step is fast, easy and currently free to all members! To learn more about how to complete this step, [visit this gsHelpCenter article](#).

\*An individual pending screening or one who has been classified as not-screened (someone who has not completed the process within 90 days) may not: volunteer with a troop, manage troop funds, supervise Girl Scouts or be counted toward required supervision ratios. They may attend events but may supervise only their own youth.

## Share Your Voice! Girl Scout Voices Count

Calling all Girl Scouts! We want to hear from you! Beginning the week of April 6, GSUSA will be sending out invitations to complete the annual Girl Scout Voices Count national survey, and we'd love to hear what you have to say about Girl Scouting. Everyone who completes the survey will have a chance to win 1 of 20 \$50 gift cards! Check your email for your invitation to participate and make your voice heard!

## Annual Meeting

April 18 | Camp Bothin | Ages 14+  
Join us to hear an update on the state of the council and view results as delegates vote to elect officers and members of the Board of Directors and Board Development Committee. [Register by April 10](#) for this opportunity!

## Summer Reading Club

June - September | All Grades  
Join the second annual GSNorCal Summer Reading Club! You'll receive a special bookmark to track reading progress, an exclusive fun patch, the full reading list, and other book-themed goodies. [Register now!](#)

## Store Deals

Take advantage of the current shopping deals below to treat yourself and show others your appreciation with a thoughtful gift:

- 20% off of \$50+ at Girl Scouts of Northern California Shops\*  
To celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Month, we're offering 20% off in-store purchases\* of \$50 or more during April 13-19. Now is the perfect time to get something special to show your appreciation for all our volunteers! For all GSNorCal store locations and hours, visit [our website](#). \*Excludes badges, uniforms and insignia. Includes only in-stock items. Offer valid in-store at GSNorCal shops only.
- Columbia Store Discount  
Members of Girl Scouts of Northern California are able to receive a limited time offer of 40% off at valid Bay Area employee stores until April 12! For more details, [view the flyer](#).

## Upcoming Events and Partner Programs

Don't miss out on some of our upcoming opportunities during the next few months! We have several events for Girl Scout members to meet new friends, make new memories, and so much more.

- [San Jose Hockey Games](#)  
April 4, 7 & 18 | San Jose | Everyone
- [Stanford Athletics: Girl Scout Days Softball & Baseball](#)  
April 12 & May 10 | Stanford | Everyone
- [Resilient, Ready, Strong, - Mental Health & Self Care Day!](#)  
May 2 | Palo Alto | All Grades
- [Renaissance Faire](#)  
May 3 | San Jose | All Grades
- [San Francisco Zoo: Girl Scout Day & Bridging](#)  
May 9 | San Francisco | Everyone
- [Girl Scout Fun Fair Hosted by Teens Take Over \(TTO\) Santa Rosa](#)  
May 16 | Santa Rosa | Grades K-5
- [Fly Up to Juniors!](#)  
May 16 | San Jose | Grade 3
- [Alice in Wonderland Presented by San Jose Dance Theatre](#)  
May 30 & 31 | San Jose | Everyone
- [Zipline Adventure](#)  
June 6 | Santa Cruz | Grades 6-12
- [GSNorCal Gold and Silver Award Ceremony](#)  
June 13 | Campbell | Ages 11+

Check out our [events page](#) for new events added every week!

## Have an Awesome Story? We'd Love to Hear It!

Life as a Girl Scout is full of exciting moments, learned lessons and delightful memories. Did you discover something new, forge new friendships, embark on adventures, or start a fresh journey? We want to hear from YOU about your standout moments!

Ways to share your story on our social media pages:

- Film your story as a vertical video and submit it to our [Share Your Story form](#)
- Tag us and/or share your post to @gsnorcal on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- Use hashtags #GSNorCal and #GirlScouts